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Operations Coordinating Board
Washington 25, D.C.

April 20, 1956

MEMORANDUM OF MEETING: Special Joint Meeting of Technical Panel for
International Broadcasting (TPIB) and the
Committee for Broadcasting and Television (COBAT)

Held 10:00 A.M., April 19, 1956
OCB Conference Room

Working Group Members Present:

TPIB - State - T. H. E. Nesbitt, Chairman
USIA - Fred Trimmer
Edgar T. Martin (alternate)
Defense - Col. Donald R. Bodine
Commerce - Alvin G. McNish (Bustandards)
FCC - Robert Tosch
OCB - Leslie Brady
Ralph Busick
Marjorie Denny

COBAT - USIA - Robert Button
ICA - Gerald Winfield
Defense - Col. M. E. Williamson
CIA Representative

1. The special joint meeting of TPIB and COBAT was chaired by the TPIB Chairman. The minutes of the TPIB meeting of April 3rd were adopted.

2. The Chairman explained that this was a special meeting arranged for the purpose of considering present and proposed VOA coverage; particularly because the Operations Coordinator of the State Department had requested that the appropriate OCB working groups study the desirability, as a matter of urgency, of the full implementation of NSC Action 1386b. Copies of the State Department memorandum to the Executive Officer of OCB had been distributed previously to the members of two OCB working groups, TPIB and COBAT, for consideration at this meeting. The Chairman filled in the necessary background for members of COBAT, including delineation of the plan before the NSC on April 28, 1955, the date of NSC 1386b. These plans called for the activation of two-500 KW shortwave transmitters in the Tangier area, one 1000 KW mediumwave and two-500 KW shortwave transmitters in the Greek area, and two-500 KW shortwave transmitters in the Philippines.

3. The USIA representatives presented charts showing present daytime and nighttime mediumwave coverage of the COURIER; possible coverage with proposed land-based installation to be operated at one-half power (250 KW) with directional antenna; coverage which might be expected with full power of 500 KW; and coverage which could be accomplished by the activation of 1000 KW which would be part of the full implementation of 1386b.

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4. Charts were next presented showing daytime and nighttime coverage of proposed shortwave installations in the Tangier, Greek, and Philippines areas, followed by coverage which could be accomplished with full implementation of 1386b (1000 KW shortwave in each of the three above areas). The standard set up for all coverage charts presented was $\frac{1}{2}$ millivolts per meter for daytime signals and $2\frac{1}{2}$ millivolts per meter for nighttime signals, as defining primary coverage areas. Population figures, as well as approximate number of receivers to be covered by the various proposed installations were provided the working groups, together with approximations of the number which could be reached by full implementation of 1386b.

5. After a thorough study of the coverage of present U.S. broadcasting facilities directed toward the Middle East, the Balkans, Southwestern and Central Russia, Asia and the Far East, it was the consensus of both working groups that present facilities were inadequate; that the steadily increasing jamming capabilities of the Soviets had not been matched by improvement in U.S. technical broadcasting capabilities; and that the full plan approved over a year ago should be implemented. It was pointed out that U.S. broadcasting was in a state of retrogression when compared with the Communist effort, and that the U.S. was in danger of losing the radio cold war because it was not fully utilizing its available resources.

6. A draft memorandum to the OCB was considered. TPIB and COBAT jointly agreed to recommend that the Board direct full implementation of NSC Action 1386b with budgetary provision therefor, as a matter of urgency. Specific actions to be recommended were:

- a. Expedite the project in the Tangier area.
- b. Implement the original plans in the Greek area on land where base rights have already been negotiated (installation of one 1000 KW mediumwave and two 500 KW shortwave transmitters) rather than present plans, which are considered inadequate, for one 500 KW mediumwave transmitter to be operated at one-half power (250KW).
- c. Implement the activation of two-500 KW shortwave transmitters in the Philippines as originally submitted to the NSC, in addition to the installation of two 100 KW shortwave transmitters as recently proposed.

(The report as adopted was sent forward to the OCB, where it was decided the memorandum from the State Department should be an attachment to the Board Assistants agenda item and minor editorial changes were then made in the body of the report.)

7. The next regular meeting of TPIB will be held Thursday, April 26 at 10:00 A.M. at OCB.



T. H. E. Nesbitt
Chairman, TPIB

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